

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An HLA-E chimeric molecule that when expressed in a nonhuman mammal cell, is expressed at the cell surface and that possesses one of the following amino acid sequences:

(1) an HLA-E chimeric molecule (a) replacing all of the α_2 domain of an HLA-E molecule with all of an α_2 domain of an HLA-G1 molecule or (b) replacing a part of the α_2 domain of the HLA-E molecule including the serine [[147]] corresponding to amino acid 57 of SEQ ID NO:3 with a corresponding part of the α_2 domain of the HLA-G1 molecule including the cysteine [[147]] corresponding to amino acid 57 of SEQ ID NO:13.

(2) an HLA-E chimeric molecule replacing the signal peptide (SP) of an HLA-E molecule with a reformed SP, wherein the sequence of the reformed SP is SEQ ID NO:21, and (a) replacing all of the α_2 domain of the HLA-E molecule with all of an α_2 domain of an HLA-G1 molecule or (b) replacing a part of the α_2 domain of the HLA-E molecule with a corresponding part of an α_2 domain of an HLA-G1 molecule, and

(3) an HLA-E chimeric molecule replacing the signal peptide (SP) of an HLA-E molecule with a reformed SP, wherein the sequence of the reformed SP is SEQ ID NO:21, and replacing a part of the α_1 domain including the serine [[11]] corresponding to amino acid 11 of SEQ ID NO:2 and all or part of the α_2 domain of the HLA-E molecule, with a corresponding part of the α_1 domain including the alanine [[11]] corresponding to amino acid 11 of SEQ ID NO:12 and all or a corresponding part of the amino acid sequence of the α_2 domain of an HLA-G1 molecule.

2. (Withdrawn) A base sequence for coding any HLA-E chimeric molecule of claim 1.

3. (Withdrawn) A nonhuman mammal cell or nonhuman mammal animal transformed by the base sequence of claim 2.

4. (Currently Amended) The HLA-E chimeric molecule of claim 1, wherein the SP of HLA-E molecule is replaced with the reformed SP, and the serine corresponding to amino acid 57 of

SEQ ID NO:3 of amino-acid-number-147 of the α_2 domain of HLA-E molecule is replaced with the cysteine corresponding to amino acid 57 of SEQ ID NO:13 of amino-acid-number-147 of the α_2 domain of HLA-G1 molecule.

5. (Currently Amended) The HLA-E chimeric molecule of claim 1, wherein the SP of HLA-E molecule is replaced with the reformed SP, and serine corresponding to amino acid 11 of SEQ ID NO:2 of amino-acid-number-11 of the α_1 domain of HLA-E molecule and serine corresponding to amino acid 57 of SEQ ID NO:3 of amino-acid-number-147 of the α_2 domain of the same are replaced with alanine corresponding to amino acid 11 of SEQ ID NO:12 of amino-acid-number-11 of the α_1 of HLA-G1 molecule and cysteine corresponding to amino acid 57 of SEQ ID NO:13 of amino-acid-number-147 of the α_2 of the same, respectively.

6. (Previously Presented) The HLA-E chimeric molecule of claim 1, wherein the entire α_2 domain of the HLA-E chimeric molecule is replaced with the entire α_2 domain of the HLA-G1 molecule.

7. (Currently Amended) The HLA-E chimeric molecule of claim 1, wherein the latter part of the α_2 domain of the HLA-E chimeric molecule, corresponding to amino acids 47-92 of SEQ ID NO:3, is replaced with the latter part of the α_2 domain of the HLA-G1 molecule, corresponding to amino acids 47-92 of SEQ ID NO:13.

8. (Currently Amended) The HLA-E chimeric molecule of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the latter part of the α_2 domain of the HLA-E chimeric molecule, corresponding to amino acids 47-60 of SEQ ID NO:3, is replaced with the first portion of the latter part of the α_2 domain of the HLA-G1 molecule, corresponding to amino acids 47-92 of SEQ ID NO:13.

9. (Currently Amended) The HLA-E chimeric molecule of claim 1, possessing the sequence of an HLA-E chimeric molecule replacing the serine corresponding to amino acid 57 of SEQ ID

NO:3 [[147]] of the α_2 domain of an HLA-E molecule with the cysteine corresponding to amino acid 57 of SEQ ID NO:13 [[147]] of the α_2 domain of the HLA-G1 molecule.

10. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The HLA-E chimeric molecule of claim 1, possessing the sequence of an HLA-E chimeric molecule replacing the serine corresponding to amino acid 11 of SEQ ID NO:2 [[11]] of the α_1 domain of an HLA-E molecule with alanine corresponding to amino acid 11 of SEQ ID NO:12 [[11]] of the α_1 domain of the HLA-G1 molecule.